

Date: Tue, 14 Sep 93 13:33:58 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #1094
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Tue, 14 Sep 93 Volume 93 : Issue 1094

Today's Topics:

 * MODs for HeathKit Linears ? *
 Alpha Bravo; America Brazil; America Boston
 CB Linear for sale: How to report?
 IC229H low audio problem
 ICW21AT out of band sensitivity
 Looking to join ham club
 Morse Code Tapes
 Need mods for Yaesu FT26
 seeking comments on Kenwood TM-741/TM-742
 There goes the rest of 20M

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Mon, 13 Sep 1993 21:33:58 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!overload.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!
vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!sdd.hp.com!hpsc.it.sc.hp.com!hplextra!hpcss01!pollux!
mlau@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: * MODs for HeathKit Linears ? *
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Hi,

Does anybody know if mods for the WARC band exist for the
HeathKit SB200,SB201,SB220 or SB221 Linear Amplifiers ??

Thanks in Advance.

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      /-/-/      .
      |           |      +(      Mel Lau de AB6IB
X-X  |           |      1      HP California Personal Computer Division
      |___|_ _  /|\  1      Silicon Valley, California
      /           /\  |      x
/-----/      \  |      x      ....hplabs!pollux!mlau
| [ [ [ |      \  X
| #      |      |      X
*****

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Date: 14 Sep 93 14:43:24 GMT
From: psinntp!arrl.org@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Alpha Bravo; America Brazil; America Boston
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, bck1@c1.cam.ac.uk (Brian Kelk) writes:

>In connection with my collection of radio/phonetic/spelling
>alphabets (which you may have seen in alt.usage.english/
>sci.lang) I have received the following:

>1:America Brazil Chile Denmark England Finland Greece Hawaii Italy Japan
> Kilowatt London Mexico Norway Ocean Pacific Quebec Radio Sweden Texas
> Uruguay Venezuela Whisky Xray Yokohama Zulu
>

>other options:

> Amsterdam Baltimore Canada . . . Guatemala Honolulu India . Kentucky
> Luxembourg . Nicaragua Ontario Portugal . Romania Santiago Tokyo . .
> Washington . . Zanzibar

>2: America Boston Canada Denmark England France Germany Honolulu India
> Japan Kilowatt London Mexico Norway Ontario or Ocean Pacific Quebec
> Radio Santiago or Spain Tokyo United Victoria Washington Xray Yokohama
> Zanzibar

>Is there a preferred alphabet here or is the situation completely informal?

My preferences are as follows:

Aetna	Ngwee
Byzantine	Oedipus
Czechoslovakia	Psycho
Djibouti	Qatar
Einstein	Rwanda

Four	Syzygy
Gneiss	Tao
Herbivore	Urge
Iguana	Voila
Juan	Write
Knee	Xylophone
Lvov	Yttrium
Mnemonic	Zwieback

CUL es 73 de BB

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*****
Brian Battles, WS10   I Tel      203-666-1541, ext 222 I  "Radio amateurs
QST Features Editor  I Fax      203-665-7531           I  do it with high
ARRL HQ              I Internet  bbattles@arrl.org       I  frequency"
Newington, CT USA    I Amprnet  ws1o@ws1o.ampr.org [44.88.0.87]
*****

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Date: 13 Sep 93 22:54:56 GMT
 From: olivea!gossip.pyramid.com!pyramid!infmtx!randall%informix.com@uunet.uu.net
 Subject: CB Linear for sale: How to report?
 To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

A person who uses a linear for a CB gets his own reward.
 Almost all of them are crap. They do nothing except
 distort your signal and make you the "channel master" of
 your neighbor's TV. Most CBers find that after spending
 a lot money on an illegal linear, they get no more range
 and a lot more problems.

73 DE KG0HW (formerly KK6MY)

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Randall Rhea                      Informix Software, Inc.
Project Manager, MIS Sales/Marketing Systems  randall@informix.com

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Date: 14 Sep 93 14:22:13 GMT
 From: psinntp!arrl.org@uunet.uu.net
 Subject: IC229H low audio problem
 To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, ker@mtgzfs3.att.com (131P2[sfm])-

k.e.rosen(MT4084)1047MT) writes:

>In article <1993Sep2.210417.4491@njitgw.njit.edu> fab4536@hertz.njit.edu (Freddy A. Balady) writes:

>>I seem to have a low audio problem with my Icom 229h. If I swallow
>>the microphone, the audio does get better. But at a normal distance
>>of 1 or 2 inches, it is way too low. Has anyone else experienced this
>>problem? If so, what was the remedy?

>This seems to be a common problem with ICOM radios. The answer is to
>open up the radio and turn up the mic gain/deviation. I did this on my 2410
>and the audio reports went from "low" to "great."

One caveat: If it's a rig you also use/plan to use for running packet, check the deviation when it's spitting out packets. One of the most common problems with effective packet communications is having too much deviation. On 2 meters (1200 bauds), 5.0 kHz is the MAX! 3.0 is very good, if your signal is adequate. Generally, 3.5-4.0 kHz is ideal for most stations. If you crank your rig for mike audio, just check it if you run it on packet. And document your adjustments in case you forget/sell the rig!

GL...

CUL es 73 de BB

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"
Brian Battles, WS10      I Tel      203-666-1541, ext 222 I  "Radio amateurs
QST Features Editor    I Fax      203-665-7531      I  do it with high
ARRL HQ                I Internet bbattles@arrl.org      I  frequency"
Newington, CT USA      I Amprnet  ws1o@ws1o.ampr.org [44.88.0.87]
"

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Date: Tue, 14 Sep 1993 16:19:46 GMT
From: news.cerf.net!pagesat!spssig.spss.com!feenix.metronet.com!
marcbg@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: ICW21AT out of band sensitivity
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Date: 14 Sep 93 14:39:09 GMT
From: psinntp!arrl.org@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Looking to join ham club

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>In rec.radio.amateur.misc, jeg7e@livia.acs.Virginia.EDU (Jon Gefaell) writes:
>In article <2178@arrl.org>, Ed Hare - KA1CV <ehare@arrl.org> wrote:
>>
>>send clubs-xx
>>help
>>index
>>quit
>>
>>SUBSTITUTE YOUR STATE'S POSTAL ABBREVIATION FOR XX! (Anyone wanna' take
>>bets on how many requests we get for the "club-xx" file?
>
>How about you create an 'xx' file, and put a gentle (not so?) correction
>and instructions in it?
>
>This makes this error self correcting :)
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CUL es 73 de BB

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=====
Brian Battles, WS10      I Tel      203-666-1541, ext 222 I  "Radio amateurs
QST Features Editor     I Fax      203-665-7531      I  do it with high
ARRL HQ                 I Internet  bbattles@arrl.org      I  frequency"
Newington, CT USA       I Amprnet   ws10@ws10.ampr.org [44.88.0.87]
=====

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Date: Mon, 13 Sep 1993 21:43:49 GMT
From: library.ucla.edu!europa.eng.gtefsd.com!howland.reston.ans.net!math.ohio-
state.edu!cs.utexas.edu!asuvax!ukma!gatetybrin!cacace@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Morse Code Tapes
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I've finally decided to try to upgrade from Tech to General, but, as with most people, I'm having a tough time getting the code down. The ARRL tapes are OK, but I've heard there are some better ones. I've seen some in QST, but I'd like to find out how good they are before I put down \$40.

What I'm looking for is a tape that makes it 'easy' to increase code speed. I've seen ads for programs that let you learn while listening to music, but

I wonder if it really works.

Has anyone out there tried one of these 'alternative' systems and had decent success. Please email.

Rich
KD4TTK
(cacace@gatetybrin.eglin.af.mil)

Date: 14 Sep 93 14:48:51 GMT
From: mnemosyne.cs.du.edu!nyx!dtock@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Need mods for Yaesu FT26
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

When I sold my FT26, I dumped all my files relating to it. I have a friend who has just purchased one, and would like the wide receive mod. I have looked on several machines but can not find it (It was mailed to me originally).

Could someone mail me again, or point me to and ftp site. Thanks

David (GM0SYA)

Date: 14 Sep 93 10:06:06
From: iccnews!gobbel@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: seeking comments on Kenwood TM-741/TM-742
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

>>>> On 10 Sep 93 13:56:39 GMT, David_Bourque_at_Notes-Gate@sceng.UB.COM said:
> I am seeking comments from owners/users of the Kenwood TM-741 and TM-742.

I've had a TM-742 for a couple of months and I'm quite happy with it for the most part. The split front panel is very nice: I have the display Velcroed to the dash, up high so it's easy to see without going head-down while driving, while the controls are behind the gearshift, right at my fingertips. The performance of the radio seems very good, I've had several positive comments about the quality of my signal. I've installed a 220 MHz module, which I use for Condor, a popular wide-area link system that lets me talk from San Diego to San Francisco to the north and Phoenix to the west, plus it gives me an almost private autopatch on my club's one 220 repeater.

I do have a few complaints:

Although the radio has two different remote control modes, neither is

very useful. You can set it to be remotely controllable through the DTMF mike, but when it's in that mode, the mike is open even when the push-to-talk is not keyed. What this means is that if any DTMF tones come over the audio, they control the radio! Also, it has a tendency to hear even loud road noise as tones, so it randomly goes off into God-knows-what weird mode. The result is that I almost never use this feature. The other remote mode allows limited control through another radio with DTMF. That works ok, but you get *no* feedback about whether your commands were actually heard. If it misses one for some reason and you get out of sync, you're screwed. I've used this remote mode for turning crossband repeat on and off, but only when I was close enough that I could run out and switch it off if things got out of hand. Also, once again this mode leaves the mike open, which can have strange side effects. This remote mode, by the way, is not even mentioned in the manual, at least not in the one that came with my radio. I called Kenwood and they FAXed me some supplementary pages that explain how to use the mode.

Because the radio is really two (or three) radios in one, there's no way to simultaneously receive two stations in the same band, a very useful feature which several other dual-band radios do have. Also, again because the bands are separate units, there's no way to have more than one speaker and switch bands between speakers--it all comes through one, or each band has its own speaker.

Not a big deal, but I wish it had a power setting lower than 5 watts. My wife and I often talk back and forth on simplex when we're in separate cars, and the 20 milliwatt setting on her TH-78A is much more appropriate for that situation. Around town, if I can't hit the repeater with 5 watts, 25 isn't that much better--you can either see it or you can't. On the road, I have encountered situations where full power was useful.

If you want more than two bands, you really only have two choices, the TM-741/742 or the expandable Icom that lets you have up to six bands (don't recall the number off the top of my head). The Icom only lets you use two bands at once, though. Other than that I don't know much about the Icom. If you want a dual-bander with remote control, the Icom 2410 is probably the better choice, as it gives you voice feedback in response to your commands. For myself, I'd get the 742 again, since I really do use all three bands at once.

73,
-Randy, KD6ULI
gobbel@ucsd.edu

Date: 14 Sep 93 15:38:51 GMT
From: pa.dec.com!oct17.dfe.dec.com!ryn.mro4.dec.com!est.enet.dec.com!
randolph@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: There goes the rest of 20M
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Sep13.193530.14170@cyphyn.radnet.com>, randy@cyphyn.radnet.com
(Randy) writes...

>My gripe is strictly, about these---who ever they are--- people who begin
>sending TTY or packet or what ever it is...right smack on top of a QSO thats
>in CW.---or what ever mode that was * already * on that freq.
> I use only CW on HF, so I can't really say much from another mode's view-
>point.

Not only CW, and not only on HF. I've had packet bleeps blast loud and clear
right into the middle of 2m FM simplex conversations. At least if the packet
station hears you, it waits, but otherwise it keys right over you.

-Tom R. N100Q randolph@est.enet.dec.com

Date: 13 Sep 93 23:00:44 GMT
From: olivea!gossip.pyramid.com!pyramid!infmx!infmx!randall@uunet.uu.net
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <26fpc0INNaug@topaz.bds.com>, <26i30r\$j0u@charm.magnus.acs.ohio-
state.edu>, <1993Sep07.192559.15224@wattres.SJ.CA.US>
Subject : Re: Radio Shack attitudes

As a former 6-year employee of the Shack, let me say a few things
about RS in general.

Since the mid-70's, Radio Shack has been the only nationwide
retailer of electronics parts. In most areas, they are the
only place to buy an assortment of electronic parts that is
reasonably close to home. They have also made a committment
recently to selling quality ham radio equipment along with
excellent code and theory study material. They certainly have
problems, but I am really glad they are there.

You are asked for the last 4 digits of your phone number because
they have a mailing list for their monthly advertisement flyers.
They should stop lying with excuses like "it's for the warranty."
A mailing list is no good unless it is kept up-to-date, so the
salespeople are required to ask every time. Tandy believes
that the monthly flyers are a vital part of how they do business and
worth the complaints that they get from many customers.
You have the option to refuse to give your name and address.

The quality of a store is dependent on the store manager. If he/she is on the ball, the small parts (the most profitable items in the store) will get ordered by the manager and kept in stock. Some managers are lazy and rely on "force feeding" of parts from the warehouse when the computer shows that the stock is low after the bi-monthly inventory count. Some stores also wait for a long time before taking the parts out of boxes and putting them onto the pegs. If you find that your local store is out of stock on a lot of items, a letter to the district manager might light a fire under the manager's rear.

Occasionally, a part is out of stock at the warehouse and will therefore be out of stock at the stores for a long time.

Store managers are paid a percentage of the store profits. They are also required to charge the catalog prices in company-owned stores, so price haggling is usually useless.

Turnover in salespeople is high like other retailers. Some salespeople are knowledgeable, but many are inexperienced and have little understanding of RS's vast product line. They are paid minimum wage plus a small commission if they exceed a certain quota. Like other retailers, you should not expect expertise from someone paid this poorly. Don't expect them to know if they have a particular transistor in stock unless you know the RS part number. If you are lucky, the store manager may be around and may be more knowledgeable.

Radio Shack will give a refund on any product as long as you have a receipt. If the store manager does not give you a refund, call the district manager. This is one of the reasons I am still a customer; I know that I can get my money back if necessary.

The quality of their products varies. Overall, it is good. The amateur radio rigs and accessories are excellent. The audio equipment is good but overpriced unless it is on sale, and they play to the mid-level (not audiophile) market. Telephone equipment is generally good, and they do have parts and accessories. Their magnetic tape is bad. Their multitesters are generally good, but again they are not playing to a high-end market like HP does. I would stay away from their computers, as I have personally found them to be lacking in quality, overpriced, and not hardware-compatible with other DOS machines.

Tandy recently sold its computer manufacturing facilities, ending their 15-year business of making computers. They will remain a retailer of computers.

They have two interesting new products. One is the Sensation, a multi-media computer. It looks like a pretty good deal, but I am waiting for more improvements in technology before plunking down money for another computer. The other is a new Digital Audio Recorder using the Philips DCC technology, which uses tapes the same size as cassettes and will play and record regular audio cassettes. The problem is that it is a tape, which does not have the instant selection capability of a CD. I personally think the Sony Mini-Disc format will win the DAT war and that this new item is too expensive. (\$700)

Tandy's philosophy is "margin uber alles." They have been willing to sacrifice market share to maintain profit margin. This killed them in the computer business. This philosophy is getting very difficult to maintain as competition in consumer electronics is fierce, and retailers around the country are having a tough time of it.

73 KG0HW (formerly KK6MY)

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=====
Randall Rhea                                Informix Software, Inc.
Project Manager, MIS Sales/Marketing Systems  randall@informix.com
```

Date: (null)
From: (null)
Any comments? Ideas? Let's find out more about this radio!

--

```
Marc B. Grant, N5MEI | marcbg@metronet.com | 214/231-3998 (voice)
P.O. Box 850472      | marcbg@esy.com      | 214/231-0025 (fax)
Richardson, TX 75085 |
```

Date: 14 Sep 93 14:49:45 GMT
From: topaz.bds.com!topaz.bds.com!ron@uunet.uu.net
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <26i30r\$j0u@charm.magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu>,
<1993Sep07.192559.15224@wattres.SJ.CA.US>, <randall.747961244@infmx>
Subject : Re: Radio Shack attitudes

You are asked for the last 4 digits of your phone number because
they have a mailing list for their monthly advertisement flyers.

Actually the four digit thing is much better than their old policy
of requiring you to write your address on every single saleslip.
Not only is the new method faster, it has greatly decreased the number
of redundant flyers I get.

The four digits are just a key that most people can remember. Sears
used the last two digits to sort catalog orders as well.

-Ron

Date: 14 Sep 93 16:05:44 GMT
From: ogicse!emory!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary@network.ucsd.edu
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <04=z0yg@dixie.com>, <!cbztcq@dixie.com>, <steveWCDAw29.DL5@netcom.com>
Reply-To : gary@ke4zv.UUCP (Gary Coffman)
Subject : Re: Emergency: cellular vs ham (was Re: Yagi for Cellular Phone?)

In article <steveWCDAw29.DL5@netcom.com> steveW@netcom.com (Steven Wilson) writes:

>> Hmm, I guess if someone had seen the wreck, written a request for help
>> on a postcard, addressed it to "911" and dropped it in the mailbox, he
>> would have been trying to help. Pretty irrelevant though. Just like
>> ham radio is becoming for emergency work, especially when ARES
>> anal retentives are involved. Want to hear more stories?
>> I have a sackfull.

>> John

>

>Not really. You've told us most of them over the years.... If you
>remember back to our last series of articles on this subject it
>came down to your experiences don't necessarily translate to the
>rest of the country. ARES is a viable active success in some areas
>and isn't in other areas.

John tends to paint with a broad brush, but his comments are mostly
on the mark for this area, and as far as I can tell for East Tenn
as well. We once had a marvelous system in Ky during the 50s and
60s, at least up to 68, but my visits up there seem to indicate that
it too has decayed, mostly for the same officious reasons given by John.

Most agencies want and need help sometimes, but they want and need it on their terms, using their methods and their procedures. This is only reasonable on their part. Too many times the people who gravitate to ARES want to give of their services only if they can shape the systems and procedures to *their* vision. And the two are rarely coincident.

>Is ham radio still relevant. Still seems to be locally. That's why
>they keep asking us to play in their planning simulations, etc. Don't
>forget that as more advanced communications technology comes into play
>for the general public, so goes the available technology to amateurs.

There are two issues here. First I'd opine that the growth of advanced consumer communications technology has narrowed rather than widened the gap between consumer communications capabilities and amateur capabilities. Amateur practice really hasn't changed much from the early 60s, aside from packet. Meanwhile the growth of cellular, FAX, and computer communications among the general public has skyrocketed. I'd note that when the San Francisco earthquake hit, many of us turned to the computer networks for word rather than dialing in HF as we would have done in earlier times.

The second point is related to the first in a way. While consumer technology has advanced rapidly, amateurs have by and large tended to cling to outmoded techniques, and to increasingly rely on the same consumer companies to supply their black boxes. Because the amateur community has resisted change, both informally, and formally through their input into the licensing regulations, those black boxes have increasingly fallen behind the state of the art in communications technique. Communications has increasingly become a cooperative venture. From cellular systems to in-car terminals, the emphasis has turned strongly toward actively cooperative networks of systems. Yet amateurs continue to operate under a paradigm of competition rather than cooperation. This shows in our inability to establish stable communications networks at the local, state, or national level. Our interoperability with agency systems is still very firmly in the manual yellow pad stage. That puts us more and more into the irrelevant category.

>As I've argued many times in this forum, the best case that can be made
>for us as emergency responders isn't the radios we bring with us, but
>rather the ability to work threw wierd situations and still communicate.
>From that point of view, as long as their is a technical requirement
>in the licensing structure, and as a group we manage to live up
>to the Part 97 requirements to serve as a competant reservoir of
>technicians we should be valuable to emergency organizations.

It's true that many amateurs have mastered the art of soldering a connector, and some even know which end of a beam is the front, but how many can quickly set up an ad hoc interface between an

agency communications system and an amateur system? How many can quickly and accurately solve a network problem for an agency? How many can even quickly adapt to an agency's operating protocols? How many can discard their normal amateur competitive training and adopt a cooperative approach? As agency support personnel, our job is to fit seamlessly and transparently our communications assets into the agency's systems. How many even know what their local agency's systems are? How many even know what it means to operate over a trunked communications system?

For most amateurs, the roles that they can fill *as amateurs* in the emergency communications assistance role grow smaller every year. To most agencies, we are just warm bodies who must be taught to *unlearn* our amateur habits before we are useful to the agency.

If we're serious about filling an emergency communications role, we need to look carefully at the way we operate day to day as amateurs and see how that relates to what a trained emergency responder needs to be doing. We should be concentrating our activities on developing cooperative communications systems within the amateur ranks. We should be working to eliminate as many practices based on competition and emphasis on differences as possible. In short, we should concentrate on teamwork rather than constantly battling to see who can collect the most postal cards, give our callsigns the most frequently in a 3 minute period, build empires to our egos, or other inane practices. We need to be forward thinking, quick to adopt new technologies and exploit them to their fullest. We need to be equally ruthless in discarding obsolescent techniques and equipment or we will fall increasingly behind agency practices and needs. That sounds more like a description of the average computer geek than it does of the stereotypical amateur radio operator doesn't it? I suspect there's a lesson there.

Gary

--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV	"If 10% is good enough	gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems	for Jesus, it's good	uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way	enough for Uncle Sam."	emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244	-Ray Stevens	

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #1094
